

29 Willow Place
London SW
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me to do it but I really cannot go into it
just now - I am so full of General H.
I can't write off a review at once!
must take time to study and think
over a subject - each of my *Archivaria*
addressed was the work of about three
months and I am now getting very jaded
as well as out of the way of that sort of
work - though I retain my health better
than I ought to expect on entering my
eightieth year

Ever yours sincerely
George Bentham

My dear Gray

I feel much obliged to Dr
Engelmann for his last communication
enclosed in yours of the 18th Oct. It has saved
me from what I must own was a blot in
my arrangement of *Crinifex* and places *Lepidion*
and *Orchistostylis* in a much better situation
among *Taxodiaceae*. I had not examined them
well enough. I now see that in both genera
the ovules are eventually erect but only become
more or less reversed as they grow intersected
pray when you write to him thank
Engelmann for me - I am getting busy for
writing more letters than I can help and am
now absorbed in *Orchidaceae* - that is to say
three or four days in the week for the other
three or two are entirely taken up with
revising and checking the references of the
proofs of Gen H. - In *Orchidaceae* I wish

I had someone to whom I could apply as I
did to Engelmann about Conifers - but there
is no one now who knows much about
Orchids except Reichenbach - he knows them
thoroughly and has a splendid collection
of them - but I cannot call in his assistance
with his crooked temper without risking
a quarrel which I should much regret.
I do not agree with some of his indications
of generic union and separation and he
generally does not commit himself to any
generic character - his labors are chiefly
species especially horticultural species
We have Lindley's Botanical Museum and
notes which are most valuable but he
unfortunately often took his generic
character from a single examination of
a single species - and that sometimes an
abnormal one as for instance his generic
character of Masdevallia is taken from
his *M. peristola* which is a *Heterotaxis*

With regard to one of your cl. American
ones, there is a curious puzzle. His type
is scarcely generically distinct from *Malaxis*
pulchra now regarded as the typical
Malaxis and probably Mettall established his
genus under the idea that *leptophis* was the
typical *Malaxis* - The *M. pulchra* and
Microstygus have not the operculate anthers
supposed to be characteristic of *Malaxideae*
but are quite exceptional in their anthers so
beautifully described by Darwin. I mention
this to you because I should like you to
examine Mettall's *Microstygus* in a fresh state.
Reichenbach made a curious mistake in
reducing *Oberonia* to *Malaxis* from which
it differs more even than *leptophis* in habit
as well as character.

We are all much pleased with your
new textbook and if we have not yet
reviewed it it is really for want of time.
Hodder is overwhelmed with work and asks